

New Exhibit Going Up Living off the Land - Season By Season

A very large exhibit started going up in January, in the Museum's main gallery and continues to emerge "season by season." By February the first segment was in place, titled *Spring: Time to Plant, Make Tonics, Ink and Dye*. It has real dirt to plow and Pokeberry ink to write with, and an electric probe seed identification game ready to play.

Then by the first of April the second segment took shape, titled *Summer: Time to Fish, Go Pearling, and Can Food*. A one-man boat filled with a multitude of older fishing equipment and a large hoop net strung above it commands attention. A wall of tools and methods of bringing shells and their pearls up out of the White River is shown. Two old diving helmets are displayed, homemade out of a fire extinguisher and a hot water tank. A 1940s enameled kitchen range, two pressure canners and jars of food, plus a number of antique canning jars tell the story of how women preserved food.

By July 1 the third segment *Fall: Time to Har-*



Twyla Wright and Linda Wann work on the Fall Exhibit



Twyla Wright, Linda Wann, and Nelson Barnett arrange items for the Fall portion of the exhibit.

vest and Celebrate will be ready to enjoy. The focus will be on hog killing and preserving in a smokehouse, along with needed tools, plus other harvest activities such as picking and shelling corn, picking cotton, making sorghum and harvesting other local crops. A display of musical instruments and stories of play parties and square dances, and pie suppers will round out this exhibit. Of special note, a student intern is making an iPod sound station so visitors can hear the dances, the auctions, the fiddle music!

In September the last segment *Winter: Time to Hunt, go Trapping, and Weave Cloth* will be up. It will feature a marvelous bear trap and a bear skin and skull, various pelts, plus large photos of prized wild game. Bird and duck hunting will be shown. And in a cozy corner you can see by a fireplace the table loom and spinning wheel that so many women used to make the family's clothing.

Come see as each exhibit segment takes shape, and bring friends along!

Other exhibits still on view are *Where the Delta Meets the Ozarks*, and *Regions On the Move*. The Shawnee Town exhibit room has a new three-dimensional Shawnee man ready to make a trade as visitors enter.

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Special points of interest:

- Learn "What's New" at the Museum
- What is Edu-tainment and why is it so important?
- Day Sponsors are vital to Museum operations.
- Shop the hottest new Museum Gift items.
- Find out how to become a volunteer!

Museum Operations (or Who's Minding the Museum?)

During the last year and a half, since September 2007, the museum has been operating through a team management approach. The four-member staff, paid and unpaid, formed a team to carry out the day-to-day management of the museum. They meet together each Wednesday and bring their ideas and concerns for discussion. This approach has proven to be highly productive and successful. Minutes are kept and relayed to the Board of Directors' Executive Committee. The staff and Executive Committee meet together regularly.

April White, the museum assistant who is employed full-time, takes complete care of office and business matters. Amanda Nikkel, who was employed part time as the Coordinator of Volunteers, agreed to continue in that role and also become our museum educator, doing all of this as a half-time employee. Francis Mathis is our gift shop manager and sees to all orders, sales and receipts as a committed volunteer. Twyla Wright continues as the museum curator of collections and exhibits, working with the Collections /Exhibits /Program committee. She is a dedicated volunteer.

All four staff persons report that they thoroughly enjoy working together, assisting each other and working with the Executive Committee's direction.

Executive Committee Members:
Jan Smith - Board President
Charles Barnett - Treasurer
Charlie Morris - Secretary
Tony Thompson - Past President

Curator's Column Twyla Wright

People continue to be generous in giving the museum many items from their families that they want preserved and at some time exhibited. In 2008 we received 137 collections, many of which held numerous items! Already, by June 2009, we have taken in 60 collections. As you can see, we can't list all of them on this page! A few, however, are listed below.

Beverly Grigsby – a WWII Navy uniform and ribbons that belonged to John Davies. Eighteen photos of the USS New York battleship in operation on which he served, along with a "Davey Jones Locker" certificate when he crossed the Equator.

Cleve and Wray Jones – a 1924 Boy Scout uniform worn by Conway Hail; a telegraph key, papers, and photo of John Wray who retired in 1948 after working for the Missouri Pacific railway (part of time as a telegrapher in Cushman); a shadow box of MOPAC memorabilia; a violin clock made by Rev. Hernden McCain (president of Arkansas College) as a reproduction of an early Seth Thomas clock.

Mack and Massey Family – Letters, receipts and deeds dating in the 1880s & 1890s. Also a Knights of Honor certificate for Y.M. Mack and a record book of the Women's Home Mission Society M.E. Church, South, organized in 1886.

John Steven Dobbins – a 1901 wall telephone from the N.B. Fallis Store in Charlotte, AR

Julia Nail – Independence County Home Demonstration Club program books for 1940s – 1960s.

Jean Crouch – a small balance scale with its "pea" that belonged to Florence Rutherford Isley

Jack and Barbara Stevenson – a Christmas Tree Stand used for 3 generations of the St. Clair and Stevenson families.

Polly Bennett – a cast iron tea pot with swivel lid

Phillip and Marcheta Goodin – farm photos from Bald Knob area

Sherry Matthews – large boy and girl "singing" dolls, several fine old books, baby booties and cap.

Fran Troy – abstracts and titles to prop-

erty owned by May Halfacre and several vintage photos.

Amy Crouch Howard – a child's dress and Crouch and Phillips family photos

Shirley Peterson Manning – a 1938 Sulphur Rock athletic sweater that belonged to Raymond Peterson.

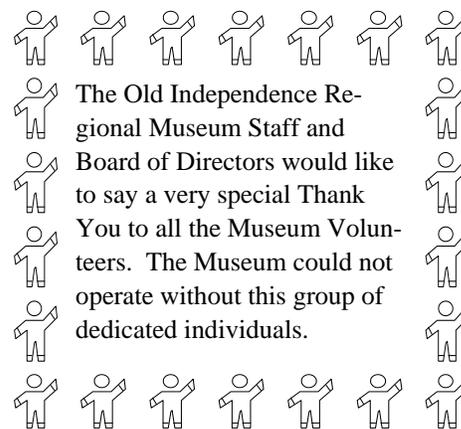
Carl Garner – many photos of the dedication of Greer's Ferry Dam and President John F. Kennedy, along with copies of letters to Carl, including one from Caroline B. Kennedy.

William Liles – ox shoes found near Curia Creek

White County Historical Society – 4 compact disks containing many photos from their collection on the subjects of kinship, community development, transportation, and recreation.

Kay Longenbach is the best scavenger/collector of historical items that the museum has ever known. The items that she brings in are almost too numerous to count. Two that we will mention is a man's 1970s "leisure suit" with its shoes, and a vibrator used for massage in a barber shop in the 1950s. Now she is even entering data about artifacts into our computerized Collections Management system!

I am so thankful for our dedicated collections workers: Mary Ann Marshall, Nona Floyd, Linda Wann, Marilyn Chlebak, Dodie and George Pouliot, Bertha Hughes, Brianne Wood, Doris Reves, Diane Taylor, Merry Covington, and Janet Gray.



Edu-tainment!

Amanda Nikkel Education/Volunteer Coordinator

Over the past two years the staff and volunteers at Old Independence Regional Museum have worked to broaden the range of educational and family oriented programming. These programs include Family Days, Day Camp, Homeschool Days, and new programs for teachers to choose to add to the museum's school tour.

Family Days

In fall 2007 we held our first "Family Day" event. It was so well received that we decided to hold three "Family Days" each year - in the spring, fall, and Christmas. These events are free to the public and designed with hands-on and demonstration activities that are fun for the entire family.

An Old Fashioned Family Christmas has been very popular. We have seen grandparents and parents coming in with children and grandchildren and remembering Christmases from their past. It is very special to us, and to them, to be the catalyst for those memories. Some of the activities have included gingerbread house decorating, ornament and card making, popcorn stringing, cookie decorating, etc.

Our most attended and unique Family Day was the Native American Family Day. The Intertribal Association of Arkansas demonstrated drumming and dancing to a crowd of over 300. In addition, there was a Native American artifact appraiser on-site giving free appraisals to visitors bringing in found Native American artifacts. The museum staff and volunteers led visitors in coil pot making and corn husk doll making. We are very excited to be able to host the Intertribal Association again this fall. Be sure to check out our calendar of events for the date.

Day Camp

In summer 2008 the museum offered its first ever day camp. The theme was Native American life, and campers studied the Native Americans that lived in or traveled through our region. Some of the activities included mapping, pouch making, and corn grinding. The camp was open to rising 3rd - 5th graders. It filled up fast, and was a huge success!

Some changes have been made to the day



camp for 2009. This summer we will study the Arkansas Frontier and what it meant to live off the land. The camp has been expanded to two weeks, with rising 3rd and 4th graders coming the first week and rising 5th and 6th graders coming the second week. Each camper will receive a camp T-shirt this year, along with the opportunity to participate in many fun, hands-on crafts and activities.

HomeSchool Program

The museum held its first Homeschool day in the fall of 2008. With so many homeschoolers and homeschool groups in our area, we saw this as an opportunity to tap into a previously underserved group of students. This program proved to be extremely successful, with over 40 homeschoolers in attendance. Homeschoolers have the luxury of fewer time constraints, so the museum is able to plan a full morning of programming for these students, with many hands-on activities. In spring 2009, we offered a second homeschool day, this time focusing on living off the land. Some of the activities included weaving, dyeing and planting. The following are just a few of the encouraging comments we received from parents:



"Thank you for all of the hard work. The kids all had a great day. Loved it!"

"The program coordinators were very informative and made each event positive for the children."

"Everything was really great - hands-on activities are so good for the kids - thank you!"

"James liked learning about sheep, Max loved eating the butter! They also liked the hoop game. Thank you so much. We have really enjoyed these activities. All the volunteers are wonderful."

The museum plans to continue offering a day in the fall and a day in the spring for homeschool students to participate in in-depth, hand-on learning.

New & Improved School Tours

This year the museum began offering new,

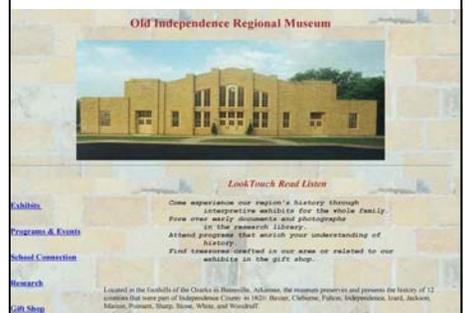
add-on programs for school groups to take advantage of during their visit to the museum. Our historic games program has been available for about a year now, and it is very popular. This is a free add-on program and is only available in September and October and April and May. It is presented on the side lawn and explores toys and games that children played in the 19th century. At the end of the program the students participate in a rolling hoop relay race and the Game of Graces.

For a small fee, school groups can choose from two programs that supplement our newest exhibit, "Living off the Land - Season by Season". For younger students we offer the "Charlie Needs a Cloak" program. During this program we read Charlie's story, then the guide leads a discussion on wool processing and natural dyeing. Each student gets to try his/her hand at carding. The program ends with a spinning demonstration.

Older students can participate in a short natural dyeing workshop. During the workshop we identify regional plants that can be used as dyes. The use of mordants is discussed. The program ends with the student dyeing a small piece of cloth that they can take home.

Check Out Our Website

Last year we worked with Cindy Hayes, a intern from UACCB, to develop a new look for our website. We were very pleased with the results. Now our schedule of events, list of research materials, school tour information and more is available through the website. The address is <http://www.oirm.org> Please take a moment to check out the photos, facts and information now available online.



Fall - Winter Program Schedule

“Living Off the Land – Season by Season”

SUMMER— Time to Fish, Go Pearling, and Can Food

July 20-31 Day Camps at the museum with many activities that focus on our exhibit theme of “Living Off the Land.” First week for 3rd and 4th graders, second week for 5th and 6th graders. Call for fees and reservations.

August 1 Mussel Shells and Pearls - Loyd & Wayne Wade tell about shelling on the river and show some of the pearls they have found. 2 p.m.

August 22 “Food: Putting Up and Laying By” a program on the history of food preservation by the Weston family of Cave City. They will show and tell how they are able to raise and preserve much of their own food. 2 p.m.

FALL— Time to Harvest and Celebrate

September 13 He Shot a Bear program by Mike Merritt of Dewitt, with 7 year old grandson Tre tell about when Tre shot and killed a large bear when he was five years old. 4 p.m.

A Dynamic New Committee in Action

Since the fall of 2007, three committees have been combined into one known as the CEP Committee. It is a coalition of the former Collections, Exhibits, and Program committees. When its 11 members meet once a month a creative explosion takes place. Ideas, merriment, and readiness to spring into action takes over! As one member said, “We just feed off one another and have a great time coming up with possibilities.” Twyla leads them to gather needed items for exhibits and for our collections, to help her plan and visualize exhibits, and plan programs around exhibit themes and school-related and family day events.

October TBA Making Sorghum : A Field Trip - meet at the museum and caravan as a group to watch the Harmon Family make sorghum in Bethesda, take a wagon to the field, and also pick muscadines.

October 12 Home-School Day – Home school students can register to attend this workshop on “Living off the Land”. Includes hands on activities, games and demonstrations. Call for fees and reservations. 9a.m. - Noon

October 24 Fall Festival Family Day Event will feature the Indian Inter-Tribal Association of Arkansas Dancers. Sausage Making by George and Marilynn Chlebak . Demonstrations, hands-on activities fun and games for the whole family. 10 a.m.

WINTER—Time to Hunt, Trap, and Weave

December 12 Another Family Christmas Party Family Day: Clogging, Fiddling and old-fashioned Pie Auction. Hands-on activities, games and demonstrations for the entire family. 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Special programs and events are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted. Additional programming and events will be announced at a later date. Please call Old Independence Regional Museum at 870-793-2121 for more information.



Sample Day Sponsor Sign

Why become a Day Sponsor?

What is a Day Sponsor?

A Day Sponsor is someone who supports the museum with a membership at a \$250, \$500, \$1,000 or \$1,750 level. Day Sponsors receive special recognition with a listing on the Day Sponsor board in the front entry-way. Day Sponsors also have the opportunity to showcase their personal message on the day of their choice on a large sign in the lobby of the Museum. Each level of Day Sponsorship also offers other great benefits, to find out more call the Museum or pick up a Day Sponsor enrollment form.

How is the money donated by Day Sponsors used?

Day Sponsorship money is used to support the direct operations of the museum, in other words it “keeps the doors open and the lights turned on”. When the program first started the amount of \$250 was determined to be the cost operating the Museum open for one day. Costs have risen over the years and it now costs nearly \$300 a day, but the way Day Sponsor money is used has not changed.

Can I choose which day my Day Sponsor sign will appear in the lobby?

Yes! In fact many Day Sponsors choose to announce birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, and other events. You may sponsor a day in your honor or in honor of someone else. Some businesses choose to sponsor a day when they are offering a special sale or event. Just call the museum staff to see if the day is available and work with them on how the sign should be worded.

May I display a photo on my Day Sponsor sign in the lobby?

Photos and logos are a great way to add that “extra” touch to your sign. We can scan a color photo or logo but the printed sign will be black and white.

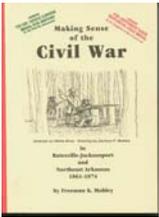
How do I sign up?

Just contact the Museum for an enrollment form. Fill out the form and return it with your check. If you want to sponsor a specific day please make sure to note it on the form. You can call the Museum office at 870-793-2121 to see if the day you are interested in is available.

The Old Independence Regional Museum Gift Shop

Gift Shop Manager - Frances Mathis

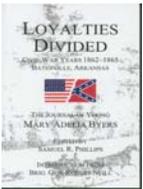
The Gift Shop holds an important place at Old Independence Regional Museum - the money it produces helps support the Museum's operating costs. It features products that reflect the Museum's permanent and temporary exhibits. The Gift Shop is proud to offer many pieces that are locally crafted and handmade. An extensive collection of books, historical reproductions, and gift items related to local history and culture are available for all ages. We continually receive new merchandise, so if you haven't been in the Gift Shop lately you are in for a nice surprise. Below we have listed some "Gift Shop Favorites" selected by our volunteers and staff.



Making Sense of the Civil War **In Batesville-Jacksonport & Northeast Arkansas**

By Freeman K. Mobley

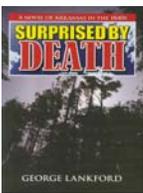
"From 1861 to 1874 a bitter guerrilla war was carried on throughout Northeastern Arkansas. Mobley's book has received numerous awards. Paperback 300 pgs. \$ 20.00



Loyalties Divided **The Journal of Mary Adelia Byers**

Editor Samuel R. Phillips

During the turbulent years of the Civil War, Byers chronicled in her journal the struggles of Batesville Arkansas and its citizens. Reader learn about life in a small southern town as it struggles through the war and occupations by both Union and Confederate forces. Paperback 196 pgs. \$23.00



Surprised By Death

By Dr. George Lankford

In his first historical novel, Lankford introduces readers to a "cold case" straight out of Arkansas history. In 1836, Nick Burton, a promising young man living in Batesville was murdered on his way home. Paperback 184 pgs. \$15.00



Indian Cookin'

By Frances Lambert Whisler

Have you ever wanted to try "Fried Locust" or "Yellow Jacket Soup"? Maybe you would prefer "Hashed Hominy", "Venison Roast", "Sassafras Jelly", or even "Possum Grape Tea"? Learn all about these recipes and many more in this delicious cookbook. Paperback 63 pgs. \$3.00



The Polk Bayou Kids **And the Search for Civil War Gold**

By Mark Rorie

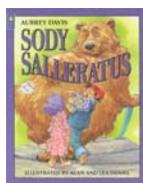
This is the first in a series of books about the "Polk Bayou Kids". Young readers are introduced to the Historical District of Batesville, as they follows the adventures of five friends searching for hidden Civil War gold. Paperback 78 pgs. \$10.00



Children's Manners and Morals

Historical Folk Toys

This charming book offers selected excerpts and illustrations from early American etiquette manuals describing acceptable behavior and manners. Etiquette was taught as a primary lesson to transform boys into young gentlemen and girls into ladies. Paperback 31 pgs. \$6.00



Sody Salleratus

By Aubrey Davis

Retold by a master storyteller and filled with exuberant illustrations, this is a spirited rendition of the 19th century folktale filled with rhythmic language. Paperback 32 pgs. \$7.95



Handcrafted Aprons

Beverly Grigsby

Our new collection of handcrafted aprons are created using vintage patterns. The materials used are reproduction 1930 pattern designs. They come in a wide variety of patterns and styles so come in and browse our selection. \$20.00



Bonnets

Children's and adult's bonnets are available in many sizes, colors and patterns. If you're looking for a bonnet to play dress up or work in the garden, we have the right bonnet for you. \$5.50



Bird Houses

These cute bird houses are made by a local craftsman. They provide attractive living quarters for bluebirds, and are available in a variety of size, style and color options. \$10.00-\$40.00



Bookends

Quarried from McBrides' in Batesville these handsome bookends make a great gift. Available in several types such as limestone or sandstone they will complement any décor. \$40.00



Weed Pots

Who would have thought such a beautiful vase could have such a humble name? These hand crafted wooden vases were made by Byron McSpadden. Mr. McSpadden no longer makes the vases, but we still have a few in stock, however supplies are limited. \$8.00 -\$24.00



Necklaces, Bracelets, Earrings and more...

The gift shop offers a wide range of jewelry in a variety of styles and prices. Many of our pieces are crafted with vintage beads or semi-precious stones. Prices vary. Please visit our gift shop to view the full selection.



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Phone: 870-793-2121
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Return Service Requested

We're on the web
www.oirm.org

Volunteer!

Amanda Nikkel Education/Volunteer Coordinator

Old Independence Regional Museum has a volunteer corps of 42, ranging in age from 13 to 80+. They work with the museum's collections, as docents, with exhibits and programming, as story time readers, with school groups, at events, and on special projects. As a museum with only two employees (and only one of those full-time) we absolutely could not do it without them. The amount of time they give to us ranges from a few hours a month to 40 hours or more per week. In 2008 our volunteers gave 6,635 hours to the museum. If we convert those hours into a dollar amount, the in-kind monetary amount given to the museum totals **\$129,448.85**. When asked why they volunteer at OIRM here are some of the answers that were given:

"I want to feel like my time is being well spent."

"I was encouraged by a very persistent

recruiter."

"I just love working with people, especially children and school groups."

"Continued learning is a priority to me."

In 2009 we are participating in the President's Volunteer Service Award. This is a national program and a way to recognize volunteers on a larger level. The program awards bronze, silver, or gold lapel pins based on the number of hours a volunteer has given to the organization over a 12 month period. The President's Call to Service Award is awarded to an individual who has 4,000 or more hours committed to an organization over the course of a lifetime. We already have a few volunteers who have enough hours for the bronze award, and we are only halfway through the year!



Volunteer Ron Karg teaches a visitor about writing with a quill pen.

Contact the Museum at 870-793-2121 if you are interested in joining our group of dedicated volunteers.